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Alright on the night

HAWKINS Group managing director Mike Hawkins celebrates as he collects The Darke & Taylor Business of the Year Award at the Oxfordshire Business Awards. Mr Hawkins had plenty to celebrate as the Banbury-based construction company picked up three awards on the night, including the overall prize. See Page 7.



CALLS TO SAVE OUR HOSPITAL

And MP pledges to fight to keep acute services at Horton

OVERWHELMING support for retaining services at the Horton General Hospital was received in a consultation on sweeping changes to the county's NHS.

More than 10,000 people took part in phase one of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) 'Big Health and Care Consultation', which seeks to reshape the way health services are delivered in Oxfordshire in response to a growing, ageing population and limited finances.

The CCG has now collated responses and on Tuesday held an extraordinary board meeting to discuss public feedback.

A summary of the responses seen by the board stated: "In North Oxfordshire there is strong support for maintaining the Horton General Hospital as a district general hospital with full provision of urgent and emergency care.

"Although there is support for planned care there is a strong feeling that this should not be at the expense of other services."

Some 85 per cent of all survey respondents were in favour of new diagnostic and pre-surgery assessment units being

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built at the Banbury hospital.

At the same time 84 per cent agreed there should be more chemotherapy, renal dialysis and day case surgery at the Horton.

Across the county almost four fifths of people agreed that acute stroke care should be centralised in Oxford, falling to 60 per cent in Banbury.

But the report noted: "There are almost universal concerns and a lack of support for the proposal to close the obstetric unit at the Horton General Hospital and replace it with a midwife led unit, because of travel times and safety concerns."

Maternity services at the Horton were downgraded to midwife-led status last October due to a lack of doctors.

The CCG said to address concerns raised during the consultation it would 'review the options' for obstetric services before a decision-making meeting in August.

It also recognised 'considerable criticism' of the consultation process

due to the fact that it had been split into two phases, with phase two – relating to emergency care, community hospitals and children's services – likely to get under way in the autumn.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis said: "We know that the board will be making decisions in August, but at the moment we have no idea what the final proposals will look like.

"I continue to be extremely concerned about the consultation's split nature.

"How we move forward remains unclear, but I will do all I can to get the answers we need and to retain acute services at the Horton General Hospital."

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School frees up parking

Easington Recreation Ground is offered a car park for the weekends

Hannah Somerville
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AN AGREEMENT has been reached over plans to improve Easington Recreation Ground after a local school offered to open up its car park to families.

Some 150 residents objected to plans put forward by Banbury Town Council to build a 23-space car park on the site as part of major improvements to the popular green space, including refurbished changing rooms, a new play area and improved football pitches.

After talks between the council and nearby Harriers Banbury Academy, the planning application has been withdrawn.

Teams attending football matches on Saturdays and Sundays can now park at the school rather than in a newly-built car park, easing weekend parking and traffic problems.

Alex Pearson, executive principal at Harriers, said: "Parking in the area is a challenge but our families also really value the park. We are pleased to work directly with Banbury Town Council for what we hope will be beneficial for everyone."

Kieron Mallon, leader of Banbury Town Council, said: "The council's plans for the rec have brought us together to once again try to find a



Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon and Alex Pearson, executive principal at Harriers Banbury Academy

mutually beneficial arrangement for the council, school, football teams and residents, especially those living in Easington Road and Gardens and St Georges Crescent."

Changes will coincide with double yellow lines being introduced to protect the junctions of Easington Road, Horton View and St Georges Crescent from hospital overspill parking.

Other improvements to the park

are set to take place over the course of this summer.

Opposition to the planning application for the car park was led by local businessman Peter Cheeseman, who said he and others were 'delighted' by the move.

He added: "We have been overwhelmed by the response we have received from the Easington community with regard to their objections to the planning application.

"It is down to the hard work of the many residents within the Easington community and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all concerned.

"We are now seeking assurances from Banbury Town Council that they will work with Harriers Academy to overcome the concerns of the residents of Easington and indeed Banbury that their parks will not be vandalised in the future."

Come along to 'marketing made easy'

BUSINESSES can get clued up on marketing skills in a free workshop being staged by Cherwell District Council.

The 'marketing made easy' business session is open to owners and managers and will look at how to market a business.

Cherwell District Council lead member for estates and economy Lynn Pratt said: "Business growth and job creation are at the top of the list in Cherwell District Council's economic development plans and we are delighted to offer this workshop in partnership with Velocity Growth Hub.

"With the growth of the digital world, it's never been more important for businesses to embrace marketing, which is a powerful tool to get noticed and reach the target customers.

"However, it can also take up time and money with little effect if it is not utilised correctly.

"Through this workshop, we will provide entrepreneurs with straightforward guidance to make their marketing activities effective, which could help increase their trade and, in turn, boost the local economy."

The workshop will be held in partnership with business support group Velocity Growth Hub on Thursday, July 13. It will take local businesses through training to create a marketing strategy, marketing importance and practical guidance.

It will run from 1pm to 4pm at Bodicote House in Banbury.

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Space Studio school set to 'shoot for the moon'



Leaders 'highly ambitious for the school and want the very best for pupils'

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

TEACHERS at Banbury's unique secondary school have said they are 'not complacent' and will shoot for the moon after resounding praise from Ofsted inspectors.

A newly-published report rated Space Studio Banbury 'good' in all areas – Ofsted's second highest ranking – following a visit on April 26 and 27 this year.

The small school in Ruskin Road is aimed at pupils aged four to 19 interested in pursuing careers in science, engineering, technology and maths (STEM) subjects.

The Ofsted report noted: "Leaders have created a unique environment

where 'difference is normal'. Pupils excel in mathematics and science subjects, aided by well-qualified subject experts and enthusiasts."

Girls, it found, particularly excelled despite being in the minority and disadvantaged pupils did as well as their peers in the narrow range of subjects offered.

The report added: "Leaders are highly ambitious for the school and want the very best for each of the pupils."

"They are relentless in their pursuit of higher standards, raising expectations about, for example, uniform, attendance, and presentation of pupils' work."

"Many gains have already been made in these aspects of school life, though there is much still to be done to ensure that pupils record learning carefully."

The school leaders, however, said they were 'not complacent' and said by the time Ofsted returned the school would transform into one that was 'simply outstanding'.

Vice-principal Julia Ingham added: "We offer something special and different to students in the Banbury area and we are very proud that the provision and exciting curriculum we offer have been recognised as being good."

The school opened its doors in September 2014 and the Ofsted inspection was its first.

It aims to become the 'premier educational provider' for young people with an interest in maths and science.

The school's goal is to equip pupils with both academic qualifications but also 'soft skills'.

It has 100 pupils aged from 14 to 18, of which 34 are on its 16-19 study programme.

Ofsted said students in this area benefited from an 'extensive range of work-shadowing experiences' and other projects aimed and developing their confidence and employability.

If you would like to visit the school please contact the main SSB reception: 01295 257942.

Student Natt Donaldson, 17, looks through the telescope at a space observatory evening at Space Studio Banbury

Appeal for more blood donors in county

A CAMPAIGN dubbed #ImThere is calling on people in Oxfordshire to sign up as blood donors.

NHS Blood and Transplant is urging people in the county to sign up during National Blood Week, which runs from today until Sunday.

It hopes to better last year's figure of more than 14,000 people from the county donating blood at least once.

NHS Blood and Transplant director of blood donation Mike Stredder said: "Every day, blood donors from Oxfordshire make a difference; saving people whose lives depend on blood."

"Whether it is patients receiving treatment for cancer, blood disorders, after accidents, surgery or during childbirth."

"Thanks to the generosity of our loyal network of regular donors, we can ensure that hospitals have the blood needed to treat patients and, as recent weeks have sadly proven, make certain our stocks are strong enough to respond to major incidents and emergencies."

In particular the NHS wants to recruit more young people and black donors. Donating blood takes no more than an hour.

You can donate as long as you are fit and healthy, weigh over 7st 12lbs and are aged between 17 and 66 years old.

Mr Stredder added: "By saying 'I'm there', you can save the life of someone else, while going about yours."

Police commissioner calls for tags on burglars

GPS tagging should be used on more criminals after they are released from prison in order to reduce reoffending, the police commissioner of Thames Valley has said.

Anthony Stansfeld said using electronic tags on burglars while they were on licence after serving a jail term would make it 'extremely difficult' for them to commit further crimes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner made the comments as he was being grilled by Oxfordshire County Council's

performance scrutiny committee over his police and crime plan for the next five years.

The plan, which sets out Mr Stansfeld's priorities for the force to tackle until 2021, focuses on helping the most vulnerable in society, reducing reoffending, preventing crime, and tackling serious organised groups and terrorism.

Mr Stansfeld made the remarks about reoffending when talking about the 9.1 per cent rise in reported burglaries in

the region. He said: "The reoffending rate of people who come out of prison, who are professional burglars, is very high."

"I would like the Ministry of Justice to put on considerably more GPS tags for people coming out of jail at the halfway point. This makes it extremely difficult for them to commit crimes. I do not think it has any human rights issues."

Mr Stansfeld was also questioned on other areas, which included the remodelling of the force in the county.

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Antique clock gift for school in memory of former pupil

Traditional Quaker timepiece was made nearby

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A TRADITIONAL Quaker clock manufactured in Sibford Ferris back in the 1870s has been donated to Sibford School near Banbury in memory of a former scholar.

Mike Finch, a pupil at Sibford from 1949 to 1954, died on 10 June 2016.

He had returned to the school in adult life to take on the role of estates manager and more recently as the school's archivist.

He was also an active member of the Sibford Old Scholar's Association (SOSA), fulfilling many roles over the years, including president.

A year after his death and to coincide with the school's 175th anniversary, Old Scholars have purchased the clock in Mr Finch's name.

SOSA president Ashley Shirlin said: "Mike dearly loved Sibford, the school and SOSA.

"Prior to his death, he and I discussed the purchase of the clock for the anniversary and so SOSA felt that it was fitting that the clock be donated to the school in his name.

"As an association, we are the poorer without his help and guidance."

The brass-faced 30-hour long-case clock was made by John Wells and can be defined by an unusual hammer action not found in other mechanisms of the time.

Headteacher Toby Spence added: "This type of clock was only made at Sibford and so it is fitting that it should return close to its point of origin some 250 years later.

"We are extremely grateful to SOSA for this gift in memory of Mike. It is now on display in our visitors' room where it is proving to be an interesting topic of conversation."



Sibford headteacher Mike Finch with the Quaker clock and Mr Finch's widow, Wendy

Adventurers set to join exhilarating challenge

ADVENTURERS are set to battle the elements during a charity challenge.

Child protection charity the NSPCC is calling on fundraisers to join its inaugural Oxfordshire Adventure Challenge on September 16.

The fundraiser will see participants take part in a 10km trek across the Thames Path, a 12km mountain bike trail along the Thames Ridgeway and a 1.2km kayak.

Daring participants can opt for a 10km hike, 24km bike ride and 3km kayak.

Debbie Knights, NSPCC fundraising manager for Oxfordshire, said: "We are super excited to be launching the Oxfordshire Adventure Challenge this year where as well as pushing yourself and having exhilarating fun you can help raise much needed funds for the NSPCC.

"We empowered nearly 19,000 primary school children about how to stay safe from abuse by visiting 102 schools in Oxfordshire this year as part of our Speak Out Stay Safe service.

"But to reach our goal of speaking to every child at every school in the UK we will need to rely on fundraisers from events like this, which account for ninety per cent of our funding."

Participants will also receive a hearty breakfast before the challenge and celebrate their achievement with a buffet.

They can also get 50 per cent off the £35 sign-up fee if they join by June 30.

Email debbie.knights@nspcc.org.uk or call 0203 763 2292.





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Cash lifeline for domestic abuse support group

Extra funding aids project scheduled to end next month

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

A LIFELINE for female survivors of domestic abuse in Banbury has received a boost to keep supporting women in the town.

Clean Slate runs a weekly 'Freedom Programme' to empower women who have been victims of abuse through building self-esteem and talking and coping skills.

It ends on July 20 and Clean Slate has now received an undisclosed amount of extra funding from Sanctuary Housing to run another round.

Nadia Brown, project manager at Clean Slate,

said: "The Freedom Programme is a nationwide programme for all female victims of domestic abuse and is open to women of all ages regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, background or sexual identity."

"The women who have previously attended have said that this course has been life-changing."

The service, based in Brice Road, aims to help survivors make sense of what has happened to them, understand its potential effect on their children, and move forward.

Participants meet on Thursdays from 10am to 12.30pm and work in a group to develop problem-solving skills and receive 'assertiveness training'.

Funding for the new course came from Sanctuary's Community Investment Fund, which supports projects benefitting Sanctuary residents and their

communities.

Kate Winstanley, neighbourhood partnerships manager at Sanctuary Housing, said: "Clean Slate provides a vital service in our community and we are delighted to be supporting them in helping those who have been victims of domestic abuse."

"We are always looking at ways we can help our residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives and, by funding care and support services like this, we're well on our way to achieving this."

Last year Thames Valley Police reported a sharp rise in the number of calls received over domestic abuse incidents.

In 2010 25,016 calls were made to the force overall, rising to 27,409 from January to October 2015 alone.

For more information on services offered by Clean Slate visit cleanslate.org.uk



Youngsters from Hardwick Primary School preparing their floral display

Pupils create superheroes for planting competition

ALMOST 300 pupils from 12 schools rolled up their sleeves and turned empty flower beds into gardens for the annual Planting in the Park Competition.

This year's superhero-themed event saw youngsters create displays in honour of their favourite comic strip and adventure film characters, from Batman to Wonder Woman.

Armed with trowels, spades and dibbers, pupils used

nearly 5,000 plants to turn the beds in People's Park into a riot of colour last week.

The event is part of Banbury in Bloom and encourages young people to develop an interest in nature and horticulture.

Mayor Colin Clarke, who judged the beds alongside Banbury Town Councillor Nick Harrison, said: "This is an extremely worthwhile event and the number of pupils taking part shows how

well-loved it is. "Everyone has had a great day and learned a little bit about nature."

"The theme 'superheroes' has proved very popular."

The first prize for flower beds was won by Queensway Primary School, followed by Bishop Loveday in second place and St Mary's in third place. St Mary's came first in the centrepieces category followed by St John's Priory and Harriers Banbury Academy.

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More than 500 business leaders and staff gather at centre for 23rd annual prizegiving



Mike Hawkins with the The Darke and Taylor Business of the Year award, which went to Hawkins Group

Firm builds on success with hat-trick of awards

Andy Ffrench
affrench@nqo.com

IT WAS a hat-trick of wins for Banbury construction firm Hawkins Group at the 2017 Oxfordshire Business Awards.

On Friday night, more than 500 business leaders and staff gathered at the King's Centre in Osney Mead, West Oxford, for the 23rd annual awards.

The host for the black-tie dinner was broadcaster Gyles Brandreth and winners were announced after being shortlisted in 12 categories.

Hawkins Group was the biggest winner on the night, winning The NatWest Large Business Award, and group managing director Mike Hawkins was named the Shaw Gibbs Young Business Person of the Year.

The company then won the overall Darke & Taylor Business of the Year award at the end of the night.

Mr Hawkins said: "I'm over the moon – I am here because of my staff."

"I feel quite emotional that we have won three awards in one night."

Awards chairman Paul Lowe said the switch to a new venue this year had been a success.

The awards had previously been hosted at the Four Pillars Hotel – now the De Vere Oxford Thames hotel – in Sandford-on-Thames.

He said: "The switch has been a great success – I think everything worked very well."

"The Oxfordshire Business Awards go from strength to strength – tickets sold out in record time in just over a week and at our judges' meeting the judges reported that



Above, The BRITA Green Award winners Grondon Waste Management
Picture: Richard Cave

Left, The Heart Cultural Events and Tourism Award winners, Cowley Road Carnival, picked up from the evening's host, Gyles Brandreth, by Sarah Airey and Anya Fox

the standard of entries had been the best in years.

"Entries come from all parts of the county and reflect the diverse nature of Oxfordshire businesses."

"You and your businesses should feel justifiably proud of what you have achieved – you are all winners."

Mr Lowe said the awards would not be able to take place without the backing of sponsors.

He added: "It's not just the financial commitment, the sponsors go out judging and commit a lot of time to the awards."

Mr Lowe added that Mr Brandreth had been 'the best speaker in 23 years'.

Charlbury-based SpecialEFfect, which helps people with serious disabilities to enjoy life through video games, won The Oxford Times Charity and Community Award. Fundraiser Nick Streeter, who has been involved with the charity since it was formed in 2007, said: "This is a huge boost. We did not expect to win and I think in this section each charity is a winner."

"I think this award gives staff and volunteers confidence and shows them what a difference we can make."

Sarah Airey, a spokeswoman for Cowley Road Works, said she was delighted the Cowley Road Carnival,

which takes place this year on Sunday, July 2, had won The Heart Cultural Events and Tourism Award.

She said: "The carnival brings in people from the city, the county and the whole country – it's the second biggest after the Notting Hill Carnival."

"It's brilliant to get this award in the run-up to the carnival."

Kidlington-based printing firm Hunts won the Syndicet Marketing Excellence Award. CEO Timon Colegrove said: "We are thrilled. We are a printing company that has taken the journey to become a creative marketing business."



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Schools set to study Great War

Campaign will preserve memory of those who made ultimate sacrifice

William Walker
will.walker@nqo.com

A NEW campaign to help preserve the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War has been launched across the county.

The 18-month project invites all primary schools across Oxfordshire to visit their nearest war memorial and record all of the names and dates of those who served.

It aims to inspire interest in the war, not only to understand its global implications, but also on how it affected local communities and families that may still live in the area.

A number of schoolchildren gathered at the St Giles' War Memorial, Oxford, last week to mark the start of the campaign.

Lynda Atkins, Oxfordshire county councillor for Wallingford and county chairman for the Royal British Legion, is spearheading the project.

She said at the launch event: "We want to help young people get involved and get interested in their history."

"We are asking every primary



Pupils from Fir Tree Primary in Wallingford and Wood Green in Witney are taking part in the Oxfordshire Remembers project. They are pictured at the War memorial in St Giles

Picture :Richard Cave

school to go out and find their war memorial and collect the names and dates, but that is really just the start.

"We hope that what they will then do is research these

memorials and most communities will find that from the names there maybe still people in the community and it isn't just anonymous name, its somebody's great grandad."

Ms Atkins said an estimated

8,000 service men and women from Oxfordshire have died in conflicts around the world since the outbreak of the First World War.

She also backs a simultaneous campaign by Historic England to

list every single war memorial in the country.

Headteacher at the Wallingford's Fir Tree Junior School Nilofer Khan, whose pupils took part yesterday, said: "It's important to remember the children's families that were in the wars."

"It also helps us remember the changes the wars brought to everyone's lives and for the children to see how these changes impacted on their lives."

She said that she also supported the campaign to list every war memorial and added: "History can be in the present and the present can be the future, and children are a big part of that."

Three Year 6 children from the school were also at the launch event. Emily Gesener, Sean Wells and Hannah Pannett, all aged 11, were the first to visit the cenotaph to mark the launch of the campaign.

Emily said: "We are here today with Ms Khan because of the memorial and to remember the people that have fought in the war."

"My great grandfather was an Italian soldier in the war so he has seen both sides and he tells us lots of stories."

"I think he wants to tell us because he knows we think it is interesting and we like to hear about it. It's quite nice to know about the past and what it was like when he was younger."

The campaign is optional and all Oxfordshire schools have been invited to take part.

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HAMPSTEAD (12A, 103 mins)

Drama/Comedy/Romance. Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson, Lesley Manville, Jason Watkins, James Norton. Director: Joel Hopkins.

Cast in the same mould as Richard Curtis' rom com Notting Hill, Hampstead is a twee tale of star-crossed lovers across the social divide, who find common ground in a court case over squatters' rights in verdant and des-res London NW3. Robert Festinger's script is loosely inspired by the true story of a homeless Irishman called Harry Halowes, who won title deeds worth two million pounds after living in a tumbledown wooden shack on Hampstead Heath for two decades. Jaw-dropping truth is interwoven with sugar-coated fiction in Joel Hopkins' rose-tinted picture, which engineers romance between a socially awkward hermit and an American expat widow.

It's a chocolate box laden with first world problems and impeccably tailored strife.

We are supposed to muster sympathy for the heroine because she has been left in dire financial straits by her philandering husband.

How does she cope with the stress of possible eviction?

By window shopping a designer grey beret with an eye-watering £120 price tag. Oh woe is her. Diane Keaton and Brendan Gleeson catalyse only the faintest flickers of sexual chemistry as the plot meanders towards its life-affirming resolution.

En route there are flashes of earthy humour like when a rival for Keaton's affections feebly brandishes a ukulele as a weapon and Gleeson barks: "What are you going to do? Strum me to death?"

A terribly polite plucking is more likely. It has been a year since Emily Walters (Keaton) lost her no-good husband Charles and she has channelled her grief and rage into volunteer work at a local charity shop.

Other female residents of her apartment block, led by busybody Fiona (Lesley Manville), include Emily in their social gatherings and offer withering advice on remarrying at the earliest opportunity.

"If you wait too long, you shrivel up like some imported apricot sitting on the shelf in Waitrose," chirps

Fiona. She sets up Emily with creepy accountant James Smythe (Jason Watkins), who promises to clear the mounting debts with "no strings attached".

After one uncomfortable date, Emily stares through her binoculars and spies Donald Horner (Gleeson) in his woodland retreat.

She becomes fascinated by the foul-tempered misfit and worms her way into his simple existence to the surprise of her well-to-do son, Philip (James Norton).

When greedy property developers serve Donald with an eviction notice, Emily coordinates the Save The Shack campaign with other do-gooder residents.

Hampstead is like a glass of expensive champagne that has lost most of its fizz, yet still slips down pleasantly.

Keaton and Gleeson are an attractive odd couple, who are more convinced of their characters' suitability than us.

Watkins is skin-crawling as a bean counter with ulterior motives and an ensemble of British character actors fill out the largely forgettable supporting roles.

RATING: 5/10

THE BOOK OF HENRY (12A, 105 mins) *Drama/Romance/Thriller.*

Naomi Watts, Jaeden Lieberher, Jacob Tremblay, Sarah Silverman, Dean Norris, Maddie Ziegler, Lee Pace, Tonya Pinkins. Director: Colin Trevorrow.

Director Colin Trevorrow's eagerly-anticipated follow-up to rampaging dino-blockbuster *Jurassic World* is a different lumbering beast.

Clumsily concocted from equal parts rites-of-passage drama, terminal illness weepie and revenge thriller, *The Book Of Henry* is that car accident on the other side of the motorway that irresistibly draws eyes that should be concentrating on the road ahead.

If the slang term "hot mess" hadn't been coined, it would be freshly minted and polished for Trevorrow's film about a precocious savant, who conceives the perfect murder of an abusive neighbour, then asks his mother and younger brother to carry out the plan when a brain tumour renders him incapable.

A deeply moving first half sketches family dynamics with flecks of hu-

mour, underscored with scintillating performances from two-time Oscar nominee Naomi Watts and Jacob Tremblay, child star of *Room*. Fourteen-year-old Jaeden Lieberher, who scene-stole the 2014 comedy *St Vincent* from Watts and Bill Murray, commits a similar act of thievery here in the demanding title role.

Screenwriter Gregg Hurwitz quickly exhausts our cache of goodwill by demanding gargantuan suspensions of disbelief in the second half as Watts' suburban mother hen, who only ducks when her wonder-kind tells her to, metamorphoses into an avenging assassin with a sniper's rifle.

She carries out her boy's plan by following a tape recording that Henry prepared in advance, which includes pauses for her spontaneous interjections and his own pithy retorts, which spookily predict her every word and movement.

Truly, he's a genius and we are fools.

Susan Carpenter (Watts) relies on her gifted 11-year-old son Henry (Lieberher) to manage the household finances and protect his weakling brother Peter (Tremblay), while she earns a meagre wage as a diner waitress.

They live next door to police commissioner Glenn Sicklemann (Dean Norris), whose teenage step-daughter Christina (Maddie Ziegler) is the object of Henry's unspoken affection.

"My future daughter-in-law," teases Susan.

When Henry witnesses an unspeakable act in the Sicklemann household, he berates the school principal Wilder (Tonya Pinkins) for her refusal to take drastic action.

The Book Of Henry is held together – but only just – by the lead trio, who anchor their characters to heartbreaking reality when screenwriter Hurwitz is feeding them a symphony of false emotional notes. Sarah Silverman offers spunky comic relief as Watts' co-worker, who pokes merciless fun at Henry's mental acuity, while Lee Pace drifts in and out of focus as a dreamy neurosurgeon in charge of the boy's treatment.

Diagnosis: a peculiarly watchable case of crash, bang, codswallop.

RATING: 4.5/10



Lesley Manville as Fiona and Diane Keaton as Emily Walters in Hampstead

Cake Bookworm

Conversations With Friends by Sally Rooney is published in hardback, priced £14.99 (ebook £8.03). Available now

Conversations With Friends is 25-year-old Sally Rooney's debut novel. It is a gripping first book, which tells the story of 21-year-old Frances and her increasingly-complicated friendships. Frances is an aspiring writer/poet and English student, living, but defiantly not working, in Dublin, with her friend (and sometimes girlfriend) Bobbi. It establishes the importance of female friendship, the all-consuming nature of first love and loves, and the difficulty of navigating your way through your 20s, both politically and emotionally. Frances embarks on an affair with an older married man, but refreshingly Rooney's writing remains lacking in judgement. She has littered the

novel with references to modern popular culture, with nods to Animal Collective and Chris Kraus' *I Love Dick*, at times it reads like a hipster Mills and Boon. It is an addictive read and an exceptional introduction, Sally Rooney is a name to remember.

9/10

The Woolgrower's Companion by Joy Rhoades is published in hardback by Chatto & Windus, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.99). Available now

A lawyer-turned-writer now living in London, in her debut, Joy Rhoades uses her memories of her grandmother's sheep farm to create this pastoral romance. The story begins in January 1945 and moves through the final months of World War II. It's an easy-to-read tale of Australian rural life and family drama. The protagonist Kate is not always easy

to like, but we sympathise with her predicament as she copes on a remote sheep farm with an absentee, soldier husband and an ailing, war veteran father. Kate turns to a tatty copy of *The Woolgrower's Companion* when she realises her father is struggling to manage the drought-struck farm, and she does her best with a difficult farm manager and his orphaned nephew, two Italian POWs and a young aboriginal maid. As Kate battles to save the farm from the bank, there are misunderstandings, hidden treasure, forbidden love and a disturbing secret. Rhoades paints a vivid picture of the Australian bush, the strict social code, snobbery and racism. Each chapter begins with a quote from a fictional farming guide and this is occasionally clumsy, but makes a neat structure for the book.

8/10



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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Gosford All Blacks Pre Season Training: Gosford All Blacks Rugby Club, Stratfield Brake, Kidlington. Gosford All Blacks are looking for new players to join their senior teams. 7pm. Free.

Hailey Scarecrows: Hailey Village, Middleton, Hailey. Occupations theme. Competition to identify all of the occupations. 9am. Free maps from Lamb & Flag. 01993 899125.

Walk for Health: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Every Thursday morning. 10am. Free. 01235 771447.

FRIDAY

Talk: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. A Journey by road from North Yorkshire to The Gambia to deliver two mini buses by Hazel Townesend. Tickets available from museum reception. 7.30pm. £6. 01235 771447.

The Blenheim Palace Flower Show 2017: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock. Thousands of flowers, garden sundries, garden furniture and food and drink. This year's show is officially opened by Alan Titchmarsh. 10am. Adults: £15.30, senior: £11.50, child: £7.10. 01202 549623.

Wantage Country Market: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Wantage WI. 9.30am. Free. 01235 771447.

SATURDAY

Abingdon Food & Drink Festival: Rye Farm Meadow, Bridge Street, Abingdon. Cookery demonstrations, food stalls, children's workshops and entertainment, live music, picnic area. 10am. Adults and children over 12 £3. 07831 289156.

Antique & Collectors Market: Kidlington Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington. 10am. Free. 01865 371494.

Carterton Lions Car Boot Sale: Carterton Recreation Ground, Alvescot Road, Carterton. 8am. Stall £6/£12, buyers free. 01993 772241.

Charlbury Beer Festival: Charlbury Cricket Club, Forest Road, Charlbury. Live music, children's entertainment and the 7th World Aunt Sally Singles Championships. 12pm. £10 for beer drinkers; £5 other adults; under 18s free. 07772 164803.

Deddington Church Monthly Craft Market: Deddington Church, St Peter & St Paul Church, Deddington. 9am.

Duckington Crafty Cake Club: Duckington Village Hall, Standlake Road Oxbow, Ducklington. Demonstration of how to craft a snapdragon made from sugar by Ulla Netzband, 1.30pm. Visitors welcome and annual memberships available. 01869 571500.

Family Fun Day: Eynsham Scout Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham. To raise money for 'Rare Autoinflammatory Conditions Community- UK' (RACC-UK). 12.30pm. 07912 164700.

Flywheel: Bicester Heritage, Buckingham Road, Bicester. Festival that celebrates classic wings and wheels. £23 per adult and £52 per family. See flywheelfestival.com 10am. 01869 243444.

Girl Guiding Kidlington Summer Fete: 49 Church Street, 49 Church Street, Kidlington. 2pm. Free. 01993 357047.

Kirtlington Village Fete and Dog Show: Kirtlington Village Hall & Sports Field, South Green, Kirtlington. 1pm. Adults £1 with programme, children Free. 01869 351537.

Midnight Walk for Katharine House Hospice: Banbury Cricket Club, Whitepost Road, Bodicote. The walk will

start at midnight with activities from 10.30pm onwards. This year's theme is 'Animals'. We ask that you raise a minimum of £30 sponsorship and £60 for families. 10.30pm. £20. 01295 816484.

National Garden Scheme: Satin Court Allotments, Satin Lane, off St Thomas Street, Deddington. Established in 1925, the land accommodates 47 individual plots. An array of homespun fences have sprouted, adorned with climbing vegetables and flowers. Several plots are still tilled by third generation allotmenters. Unsuitable for wheelchair access owing to the uneven grass paths. Dogs on leads. Home-made teas. 2pm. Adult £5; children free.

Rainbow Run: Cutteslowe Park, Oxford, Harbord Road, Kidlington. 3km fun run. In aid of Helen & Douglas House. See hdh.org.uk 11am. £17.50 adults (14+) £12.00 children. 01865 799150.

The Big Absolutely Everything Sale: The Tolsey, High Street, Burford. In aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf and Medical Detection Dogs. 9am. Free. 01993 844495.

SUNDAY

Bampton Village Garage Sale: Bampton Town Hall, Market Square, Bampton. 10m. Maps £1. 01993 850918.

Open Gardens: Fritwell Village, North Street, Fritwell. Songs of Praise afterwards in church. Funds in aid of St Olave's Church. 2pm. £5, children free. 01869 345632.

Hidden Gardens of Bampton: Bampton Town Hall, Market Square, Bampton. Visit over 25 gardens not normally open to the public. Bampton Village Garage Sale on the same day. 2pm. £3. 01993 850918.

National Garden Scheme: Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant, Watlington. Romantic, 1.75 acre vicarage garden lovingly rejuvenated and enjoyed by the present family. Wheelchair access. Home-made teas in the church. 2pm. Adult £4; children free.

National Garden Scheme: The Old Vicarage, Main Road, Bledington. 1.5-acre garden around a large Georgian vicarage (not open). Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Home-made teas. 2pm. Adult £4; children free. 01608 658525.

National Garden Scheme: Sibford Gardens, Various locations, Sibford Gower. In two charming small villages of Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris, off the beaten track with thatched stone cottages, five contrasting gardens. Limited wheelchair access. Plant sale. Home-made teas in Sibford Gower Village Hall (opp church) 2pm. Combined Adult £6; children free. 01295 780365.

Rare Plant Fair: Watperry Gardens, Near Wheatley, Watperry. 10am. £6 adults, children free. 0845 468 1368.

Sale of Children's Clothes and Toys: Saltway Day Nursery, White Post Road, Bodicote. All proceeds will go to help a crèche in South Africa. 9am.

Walk (Fieldpaths): RSPB car park, Beckley. SP569120 4.5 miles. Meet at the RSPB car park, Beckley. A circular walk north to Otmoor and then west round bank to Oddington and to the centre of Otmoor, returning via Roman Road to Beckley. Bring refreshments for en route break. Assistance dogs only. 2pm. 07957 319262.

MONDAY

Alfie Meets...: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Under 5s session. 10.30am. Suggested £2 donation per family. 01235 771447.

TUESDAY

ANHSO Swift Walk Around Wolvercote: Meet outside Wolvercote Village Hall, 1 Wolvercote Green, Wolvercote. Swift experts Jocelyne

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Hughes and Chris Mason will lead an evening stroll around Wolvercote, with plenty of stops to watch swifts and talk, in between searching for swift nests. 8pm. Visitors £2, members free.

Being Present, Productive & Fabulous: The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. Women's Wellness Workshop. 7.30pm. £10. 07917 453224.

Casting Metal - The historic role of local foundries: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. A talk by Jim Birch. 7.30pm. £6. 01235 771447.

Floral Demonstration: Bicester Methodist Hall, Victoria Road, Bicester. Bicester Floral Club presents a demonstration by Jennifer Thompson entitled 'Greek Delights'. 7pm. £5.

Tea Dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. 2pm. £2. 01993 811473.

WEDNESDAY

Emma Bridgewater – Made in Britain: Festival Marquee, Magdalen College School, The Plain, Oxford. A household name closely associated with her trademark mugs, bowls and plates, Emma Bridgewater has spent 30 years building up a successful business. With no formal training, Bridgewater spearheaded a revival in traditional craft skills in pottery, and now employs 270 people. Emma will talk about business, creativity, and making the traditional contemporary. 8pm. £10/£8/£2. 01865 253505.

Music

THURSDAY

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: John Etheridge. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz guitar legend. 8.30pm. £12, £10 (concs), £6 (student).

The Cock Inn, The Green, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8pm. Free.

FRIDAY

Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon-on-Thames: Gilbert and Sullivan: *The Mikado*. Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform a concert version. Free, collection for The Abingdon Bridge. 7.30pm. 01865 361431.

St Nicholas Church, Station Road Baulking, Faringdon: Richard Durrant 'Stringhenge' Show. Guitarist. £14. 8pm. 01367 820282.

The Plough, 24 High Street, Long Wittenham: Wittfest. Octane Spring, Night Wreckers, The Vincent White Band. Free. 6pm. 01865 407738.

Wine Vaults, Parsons Street, Banbury: Glam Res. Free. 9pm. 01295 261281.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Mamzer, Crimson Tusk, King Bolte. Hard rock & heavy metal. 6pm. £8.

SATURDAY

Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road, Didcot: A Summer's Evening at the Bandstand. Didcot Choral Society and Blewbury Brass Band. £10/8 free for children. 7.30pm. 07915 094842.

Royal British Legion Club, Spring Road, Abingdon: Swingtime. Free. 8.30pm. 01235 526389.

St Leonard's Church, High Street, Eynsham: Summer Concert. Freeland

Orchestra and three local wind groups. £5, under 18s free. 7.30pm.

High Street Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Hopes and Dreams – with Witney Inter-Church Singers. Musical based on The Lord's Prayer. £7.50 (£3.50 primary age children). 7.30pm. 07746 791265.

The Old Anchor, 1 St Helen's Wharf, Abingdon-on-Thames: Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. Free. 9pm. 07790 646028.

Witney Congregational Church, Welch Way, Witney: Gilbert and Sullivan: *The Mikado*. Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform a concert version. Free, collection for Christian Aid. 7.30pm. 01865 361431.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Wandering Wires. A five-piece jazz-electronic band with support from Rosie Caldecott, ENDKAT and more. 6.30pm. £10.

SUNDAY

Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford: Burford Singers – Karl Jenkins The Armed Man. £23, £19, £15, unreserved £10. 7.30pm. 01993 822412.

Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Cowley Place, Oxford: Nick Cope. £6/4/2. 10.30am. 01865 253505.

SJE Arts, Church of St. John The Evangelist, Iffley Road, Oxford: Choral Workshop: The Tenebrae Effect. Participate in a workshop led by Nigel Short on movements from Victoria's Tenebrae Responsories, and sing with Tenebrae during part of their afternoon rehearsal. 11.30am. 01865 253505.

SJE Arts, Church of St. John The Evangelist, Iffley Road, Oxford: Tenebrae: Victoria Requiem, 1605. £25-2. 7.30pm. 01865 253505.

The Bell, 38 Market Place, Wantage: Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. Free. 5pm. 07790 646028.

The Maytime Inn, Asthall: Mike Maddams. Free. 3pm. 01993 822068.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Former Inspirial Carpets Frontman Tom Hingley. Support from Freddy Le Cragg, Purple May, Scott Gordon and Lewis Newcombe-Jones. Free. 3.30pm.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Juliet Kelly Quartet. Vocals, piano, bass and drums. Jazz. 6.30-9pm. Free.

Crazy Bear, Stadhampton: Jazz Trio featuring Lily Dior. 2-5pm. Free.

MONDAY

Rose Revived, Newbridge, Witney: Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Jazz. 7.30pm. Free.

TUESDAY

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Tom Clarke. Former frontman for indie rockers The Enemy with solo show. 7pm. £15.

WEDNESDAY

The Lamb Inn, 59 Mill Street, Wantage: Dave Moorwood's Rascals of Rhythm. Jazz. 8.30pm.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jun 23, *Orange Juice*. Offbeat Festival. 6.30pm. £10. Jun 23, 2 *Girls*, 1 *Hoare*. Offbeat Festival. 8.30pm. £10. Jun 24, *The Paper Moon*. Offbeat

Festival. Family theatre. 11am. £2.50. Jun 24, *Though Lovers Be Lost*. Offbeat festival. 2.15pm. £5. Jun 24, *Mr Mineshaft*. Offbeat Festival. 7pm. £10. Jun 24, *Make Love and Smash Fascism*. Offbeat Festival. 9pm. £5. Jun 25, *Cow*. Offbeat Festival. 2pm. £10. Jun 25, *Herve*. 5pm. £10. Spoken word. Jun 25, *Unconditional*. 7.30pm. £5. 01865 305305.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Jun 24, Trevor Cook, Robin Morgan, Paul McCaffrey and David Hadingham. Glee comedy. 7.45pm. £15.95. 01865 810000.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Jun 23, *What If The Plane Falls Out Of The Sky?* Offbeat Festival. 6.15pm. £10. Jun 23, *#Torycore*. Offbeat Festival. 8pm. £10. Jun 24, *Dr. Zeifal, Dr. Zeigal and The Hippo That Can Never Be Caught!* Offbeat Festival. This family show for all ages. 12pm. £5. Jun 24, *Bigamous*. Offbeat Festival. 1.15pm. £8. Jun 24, *Organic Entity*. Offbeat Festival. 2.45pm. £10. Jun 24, *Fallout*. Offbeat Festival. 5.30pm. £10. Jun 24, *Boris – The Musical!* Offbeat Festival. 8pm. £10. Jun 25, *Me and My Bee*. Offbeat Festival. Family comedy. 3pm. £5. Jun 25, *The Room of Lost Things*. Offbeat Festival. 4pm. £5. Jun 25, *Aunusthan*. Offbeat Festival. 4.30pm. £10. Jun 25, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet*. 5.45pm. £5. Jun 25, *Anchorwoman*. 8pm. £10. 01865 263990.

Frideswide Square, Oxford: Until Aug 5, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Creation Theatre Company. Meet in groups of 10 at a secret location, follow the clues and watch out for fairies. £25, £18, concessions £22. 7.30pm. 01865 766266.

Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford: Jun 24, *Storming Utopia*. A theatrical experiment in practical utopianism, and a story about life on an island – a 'mash-up' of themes and stories from Shakespeare's *Tempest*, More's *Utopia*, and the political geography of post-Brexit Oxford. £5/£2. 8pm. 01865 253505.

Oxford Castle Unlocked, 44-46 Oxford Castle, Oxford: Until Jul 1, *Twelfth Night and The Tempest*. Two one-act versions of Shakespeare's most famous seafaring plays by Oxford-based theatre company BMH. 7.30pm. £16/£13. 01865 260666.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Jun 24, *Emma*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. Jun 27-Jul 1, *Waiting For God*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jun 23-25, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Children's theatre. Various times. £15.15 plus £4 transaction fee. Jun 27-Jul 1, *Out of Order*. 7.30pm. £12-£36.50 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

Amey Theatre, Park Road, Abingdon: Jun 22, NT Live: *Salomé*. 7pm. £12 / £10. 01235 849063.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jun 22, NT Live: *Salomé*. 7pm. £15. Jun 28, *Macbeth*. Dormer House School. 4pm and 7pm. £7.50. Jul 1, *Dial Medicine for Murder*. 7.45pm. £16. 01608 642350.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, Station Road, Didcot: Jun 22, *Under Milk Wood*. Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. 7.30pm. £15. Jun 23, *Access All Areas: Showcase Performance*. 7.30pm. £5. Jun 25, *The Girl and The Giraffe*. Family theatre. 11am and 2pm. £8.50. 01235 515144.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Jun 22, *Katy Brand: I was a Teenage Christian*. 8pm. £14. Jun 30, *Mark Thomas – Work in Progress*. 8pm. £12. 01295 279002.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Pond back at Puritans

Midfielder reunites with manager Ford

MIKE Ford is delighted to be reunited with Darren Pond after the midfielder agreed a return to Banbury United.

The 30-year-old, who helped Leamington win promotion from the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division last season, came through the Puritans' youth set-up.

Pond made his first-team debut in 2004, making 107 appearances, before moving to Oxford City in 2007.

It was at Court Place Farm where he played under Ford and achieved two promotions as the club climbed into the Vanarama National League.

The Banbury boss made Pond his captain while at City and is thrilled to secure his signature.

Ford said: "I'm really pleased Darren has agreed to join the club.

FOOTBALL

"He is vastly experienced at this and the level above and will add quality and skill to the side.

"He has been part of two promotion-winning sides from our current division, both while at Oxford City and last season at Leamington.

"I've worked previously with Darren at City and he was instrumental in the success we had, and I rate him highly and made him captain.

"I know that with Darren being a local lad many United supporters would have liked to have seen him back in a Puritan shirt before now.

"A combination of circumstances has meant it has not been possible, but I'm delighted I have now been able to bring him in this summer."



Darren Pond (left), pictured playing for Leamington against Banbury last season, has joined the Puritans

Sabin knock in vain as Banbury suffer defeat

Banbury fell to a three-wicket defeat at champions Finchampstead. Captain Lloyd Sabin led the way, hitting 84 off 110 balls, which included five fours and three sixes, as the north Oxfordshire side posted 274-8.

Sabin also starred with the ball, taking 4-31. But Finchampstead were in control, thanks to first and second-wicket partnerships of 73 and 90, before chasing down their target with an over to spare.

Andrew House smashed 96 off 95 deliveries. Banbury will bid to bounce back when they face second-placed High Wycombe on Saturday.

BANBURY

C Hought c Lincoln b Hodges.....	31
J Wilkins lbw Deves.....	43
L Sabin c Uttley b Hodges.....	84
C Hill c Lincoln b Rogers.....	16
R West c&b Deves.....	17
E Phillips run out.....	6
J Megson run out.....	25
W Havtin c Deves b Hodges.....	23
O Wright not out.....	11

CRICKET

B Taylor not out.....	2					
Extras.....	16					
Total (8 wks, 64 ovs).....	274					
Fall: 1-59, 2-90, 3-157, 4-182, 5-189, 6-229, 7-245, 8-263.						
Bowling: Carter 8-23-0, Parson 5-2-13-0, Marles 8-0-24-0, Hodges 10-0-48-3, Uttley 8-0-45-0, Deves 16-1-52-2, Rogers 9-0-53-1.						
FINCHAMPSTEAD						
A House c West b Cheema.....	96					
G Smith b Wright.....	30					
D Marles c West b Sabin.....	60					
D Lincoln b Cheema.....	3					
W Rogers not out.....	48					
J Lincoln c Hought b Sabin.....	0					
A Deves c&b Sabin.....	5					
M Carter c&b Sabin.....	11					
A Parson not out.....	15					
Extras.....	8					
Total (7 wks, 54 ovs).....	276					
Fall: 1-73, 2-163, 3-167, 4-219, 5-219, 6-227, 7-255.						
Bowling: Cheema 12-1-46-2, Taylor 4-0-22-0, Wright 11-1-42-1, West 19-0-122-0, Hill 2-0-8-0, Sabin 6-1-31-4.						
Banbury 11pts, Finchampstead 25						
LATEST TABLE						
Division 1						
P	W	D	L	NR	Bon	Pts
*Henley	7	4	1	2	0	16 118
H Wycombe	7	4	1	2	0	24 112
Horspath	7	4	1	2	0	17 105
Finchampstead	7	3	1	3	0	33 101
Oxford	7	3	1	2	1	20 89
Burnham	7	3	1	3	0	23 86
Slough	7	2	2	2	1	31 83
*Banbury	7	2	2	3	0	24 79
Great Tew	7	2	2	3	0	24 70
Tring Park	7	1	0	6	0	28 48
*includes a tie						

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

It's a case of who you know and not what you know this week. You have grown in so many ways and I have to tell you how very proud I am of you. Changes of home will soon be in the air, but make sure you are the one walking towards your future and not being pushed into what others tell you that you want. Ring now to hear why it's imperative to be on time Monday to Friday.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Lies you tell this week will come back on you, so try not to tell any. Besides my friend, you and I both know you are better than that. Travel plans are approaching which really do make your life a better place to be. Don't emotionally blackmail a younger face this weekend, or it will come back on you. Ring now so I can help you to communicate more constructively with close ones.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Are you really asking for what you want? Or are you simply trying to see how far you can push a close one? Careful of playing games my friend, or you really are going to get your fingers burnt. Conversations with new work contacts you have recently made can help you find a better way towards your future. Ring now to hear which sign is finally ready and able to commit.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You feel as if you are running out of time, but the opposite is true my friend. Remember how good you are when placed under pressure. A new ambition for your future is unveiled thanks to current contacts who show you that you are worthy of these hopes and dreams. Buy a spare birthday card. You're going to need it far sooner than you may think. Ring now so I can tell you a delectable love prediction.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

For once this week you can and should be able to put your own needs and desires first. For much of this year you have had to play the role of supporter and I can see that it hasn't been easy for you. What you realise in the days and weeks ahead is who is willing to give as well as receive. One face of solidarity is sure to surprise you. Ring now for a preview of your future.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Gossip you repeat comes back on you. You may have to eat a little humble pie before this week is over my friend. Do it and don't worry about it. Once it's said, you will have made the repair that was necessary. A split in your inner circle affects you more than you thought it would. Why becomes clear on Sunday. Ring now so I can tell you why July could be your best month for years.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

This week it really is a case of if you think you can, you will and if you think you can't, you won't. A positive attitude was hard to find, but it no longer has to be now that you have worked out what and who you want. In fact, it was your lack of decision making which was the source of the problem. Expect to be pleasantly surprised in love. Ring now to make your future a bright one.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Try to find humour in any setbacks which occur, as I know you can and will come out the other end smiling. Your ruling planet the Sun helps you to better understand options in your career and you are set to make one of the most dramatic professional decisions of your life. First introductions will become lifelong friends this week. Ring now so I can tell you who your soul mate is.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Money matters come under scrutiny and you begin to see how much your recent hard work has paid off to your advantage. Decisions have to be made regarding older people and you are the one who can and should make the final decision. Don't let jealous faces convince you otherwise. Ring now to hear why it's worth travelling extensive distances in the name of work.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

What you are experiencing now really is just a case of nerves Virgo. Try to remember that you are a sign who is worth having around. Your element of earth has, in the past, pushed you to ask for commitments before others were ready. However, this week the stars present you in a far more laid back style. This ends this month with a wonderful twist of events. Ring now so I can explain why.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

There is far more to current stories than you at first think, so try not to judge too quickly. Let others speak and explain what has really been going on. It can help to create a more secure relationship between you if you do. Things you buy and sell at this time should prove to be worthwhile transactions. Go with your gut. Ring now so I can tell you who's feeding you half truths.

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Barnstorming looks, plus a well in the hall

Gill Oliver
goliver@nqo.com

A BARN conversion on the outskirts of Hook Norton combines green credentials with good looks.

Scotland End Barn has many original architectural features such as exposed beams, A-frame timbers, high vaulted ceilings, cut stone arched doorways and stone mullion windows.

Built of traditional Horton stone and brick under a slate roof, it has floor-to-ceiling glass windows throughout.

In one of the hallways, an original water well is still in place, covered by safety glass and with feature lighting.

Both the main reception rooms are vaulted and have windows on two sides.

The sitting room has floor-to-ceiling glazing along one side overlooking the courtyard, while the second reception room has

floor-ceiling glazing on both sides, plus a wood-burning stove.

There is also an open-plan kitchen/dining room with bi-fold doors leading out to the terrace.

The master bedroom comes with a walk-in wardrobe and ensuite shower and there are four more bedrooms, two of which have ensuite showers, plus a family bathroom.

Another bedroom, at the end of the ground floor wing, has private access to the courtyard and is self-contained.

A triple garage, which is used by the current owners as an office, is fitted with a kitchenette, shower and doors to a terrace.

The house is protected behind wrought-iron gates and along a gravel driveway.

It is surrounded by gardens of an acre, including a vegetable plot, lawns and a swimming pool.

Scotland End Barn's green features include renewable micro-generation installations supplying heating, hot water, and electricity and generating an income via the

top rate Feed-in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive.

Other eco-friendly highlights of the property include a biomass boiler, which supplies heating and hot water, integrated solar photovoltaic panels and an air source heat pump to heat the swimming pool.

Scotland End Barn is on the market at £1.375m.

For more information, contact the estate agent, StayCotswold, on 01993 259444 or email fergus@staycotswold.com

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We also advertise on two of the largest UK websites, Zoopla and

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can keep a close eye on things, just like you would if you had the time.

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Kingfisher Drive

A 3 bedroom detached property comprising: Entrance hall, lounge through to dining room, conservatory, kitchen, cloak room, 3 bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside benefits from off road parking, garage, front, rear and side gardens. Situated near local amenities and primary school.

£285,000



Cherwell Court

A spacious two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town centre and train station. Master bedroom with ensuite shower room. Plenty of storage. Spacious kitchen and living area. Secure gated parking.

£185,000



Bramble House

A four bedroom detached property with double garage situated to local schools; shops and amenities. The property comprises entrance hall; cloakroom, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen / breakfast, four bedrooms with en-suite to master, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

£420,000



Peoples Place

A large two bedroom apartment with allocated parking. Entrance hall open plan kitchen and living room. The property benefits from integrated appliances. There are two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Good size bathroom with bath and shower and WC. Situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station.

£182,500



Northumberland Court

We are delighted to offer to the market this well presented second floor, two bedroom apartment situated in a fantastic location within Banbury. Benefiting from two bedrooms, Lounge/ diner, kitchen and family bathroom this property would make an ideal investment or first home.

£140,000 OIEO



Corner Cottage

A picturesque 3 bedroom property in the village of Tysoe. Comprising entrance hall, lounge with open fire place, kitchen diner, inner lobby with cloakroom, W.C. and utility, three good size bedrooms and bathroom, generous size corner plot, off road parking and a separate office/annex.

£325,000 (OIRO)



High Acres, Banbury

An immaculate 4 bed detached property situated on the popular Cherwell Heights are of Banbury. Briefly comprising: Entrance hall, lounge, extended kitchen and dining room, downstairs cloakroom, 4 bedrooms with built in wardrobes and family bathroom. Outside benefits from ample off road parking, front and rear gardens and garage.

£350,000



Bedford Close

Martin & Co Banbury are please to present this excellent one bedroom house situated in a fantastic location within Banbury. This would make an ideal investment or the perfect first time home.

Asking Price Of £155,000



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Enhance View

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom spacious apartment conveniently situated in the town centre and within walking distance to the train station. The property comprises kitchen; living room; one double bedroom; bathroom with bath and shower. The property is available unfurnished.

£725 pcm



Hillside Close

We are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom semi detached house situated in Cherwell Heights. The property comprises: kitchen with double oven and gas hob; living room; conservatory; separate reception room/study/playroom. Upstairs there is a double bedroom with fitted wardrobes; second single bedroom; bathroom with bath, shower and WC.

£795



Purston House

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market first floor two bedroom unfurnished apartment situated conveniently for the town centre and train station. The property comprises: hallway; kitchen; living room; two double bedrooms; the master bedroom has an ensuite shower. EPC rating B

£795 pcm



Causeway

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid terraced property, with close proximity to train station and town centre. The property comprises: kitchen, lounge, bathroom, two bedrooms. There is on road parking, and a small garden to the rear of the property. Suitable for single or professional couple.

£775 pcm



Cricketers Fields

Martin & Co are pleased to present a selection of new two bedroom luxury apartments situated within walking distance to the train station and town centre. Available unfurnished with off road parking. Don't miss out on the chance to rent in a brand new development. Available for viewings from 27th May.

£795 pcm



Springwell

A well presented two bedroom apartment in quiet location within walking distance to the town centre and train station.

£825 pcm



Wren Crescent

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market immaculately presented spacious three bedroom property situated on the Longford Park estate. The property comprises entrance hall, kitchen with integrated appliances: cooker, washer dryer, dishwasher, fridge freezer. Good size living room; cloakroom with WC; upstairs there are two double bedrooms and one single.

£1250 pcm



7 Tarragon Walk

A spacious two bedroom apartment on the Hanwell Fields estate. This property benefits from two double bedrooms and allocated parking and a garage. Fully fitted kitchen and spacious lounge. Double bedrooms. Good access for M40 links. Walking distance to the shops and schools. EPC rating: C

£850 pcm



34 Marshall Road

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this spacious two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises of living room and kitchen. There are two double bedrooms and a bathroom. The master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom. There is also allocated parking.

£775 pcm



Hereford Way

A new to the market three bedroom spacious bungalow with good size garden; plenty of parking and a garage. Conveniently situated in Hardwick for access to the town centre; local schools and shops. EPC Rating D.

£950 pcm



Broughton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom room in a shared house conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The room benefits from a kitchenette area also. Ideal for a single professional.

£550 pcm



2 Kings Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom cottage situated in the village of Bloxham. The property benefits from one double bedroom and a second smaller bedroom / office. The bathroom contains a WC and a shower. Good size kitchen and living room. Washing machine and fridge available. EPC rating C

£800 pcm



Sir Henry Jake Close

Martin & Co are delighted to offer this three bedroom semi detached house on Hanwell Fields with garage and garden. The property benefits from 2 reception rooms as well as larger than average bedrooms with fitted wardrobes.

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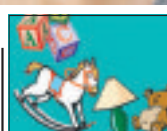
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accident or incident but by long-term illness or disability.

These no-nonsense professionals diagnose and assess physical problems. They then devise programmes of treatment that can include massage, specific exercises and electrotherapy.

For some a few focused sessions will sort us out, for others treatment will be over a longer term.

So what does it take to make it as a physiotherapist?

Well, what all good physios have in common are great communication skills and bags of patience. The key to a successful treatment is persuading a patient to carry out repetitive (dare we say boring!) exercises on a regular

basis to improve strength and movement.

This means the ability to motivate patients to keep at it is a prized talent.

In terms of training, you're going to need a degree under your belt for starters. You can choose to follow an undergraduate degree in physiotherapy or complete a masters in the subject.

In order to practice you'll need to register with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Once qualified, one thing is for sure; there will always be demand for your skills.

As your career develops, you can choose to specialise in one particular area such as sports therapy, which could see you travel

the world with a national team.

Alternatively, you could work with kids living with a disability and help them maximise every opportunity for active fun and a full life.

And an ageing population means the demand for your skills to address age-related conditions has never been higher.

The majority of physios are employed by the NHS but there are plenty of opportunities to work in private health care centres or sports clubs. If you have an entrepreneurial streak you could even become self-employed and set up your own business.

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C3 lets you personalise to your taste



CITROËN'S third generation C3 supermini is a crucial car for the French brand and must be more interesting and likeable than its sensible predecessor. Can it deliver?

Ten Second Review

Citroën's C3 supermini has always focused on comfort and value. But then so does every other supermini. To survive in the tightly fought small car segment, it must offer more in MK3 model guise and do so with a dash of Gallic flair. There were signs that Citroën could still offer that with its C4 Cactus Crossover model of 2014 and that impetus seems to have been continued here.

Background

What should a modern Citroën be? Not like the second generation C3 supermini, that's for sure. Today to survive, the brand must offer more than just sensible efficiency: the PSA Group has its Peugeot brand to deliver that. And its DS nameplate to offer a fashion-conscious premium option for those prepared to pay a little more. Which leaves Citroën needing to go back to being the kind of manufacturer it once was, fun, innovative and different.

Which, at first glance at least, appears to be what's served up here. The look is unique, can be embellished by a two-tone paint option and incorporates the unusual 'Airbump' side panels we first saw on the brand's C4 Cactus crossover model. Plus there's some interesting technology that you won't have seen before on this class of car.

Driving Experience

Though much has changed about this third generation C3, few of the differences can be found beneath the bonnet. Which means that power comes from much the same engine range used by final versions of its predecessor. To be fair, there wasn't a lot wrong with that car's powertrain line-up by the very end. The PureTech three cylinder 1.2-litre unit is frugal and willing, while the 1.6-litre BlueHDi diesels are amongst the cleanest and most frugal engines of their kind in the industry.

First up at the bottom of the range is a 1.0-litre 68bhp unit that needs to be revved quite hard if you're to get anywhere near the quoted performance figures. Much better is the 1.2-litre version of this unit which offers either 82 or 110bhp and delivers the same distinctive three cylinder thrum but accompanies it with pokier performance. It also gives you the option of the brand's ETG semi-automatic gearbox. As for the BlueHDi diesel options, well there are two main ones. Most potential buyers will be looking at the 75bhp variant but a 100bhp version of this frugal unit is also offered.

Design and Build

The idea here is to offer supermini buyers a little more energy and personality and that's broadly what's delivered. At 3.99m in length, this car is slightly smaller than some of its rivals, but it's more interesting to look at. At the front, there's the distinctive two-tier front light signature we first saw on the current C4

Picasso. Double chrome strips extend from the double-chevron badge and go all the way across to slick LED daytime running lights. In profile, the black windscreen pillars and floating roof aim to accentuate the more dynamic shape. There's a deliberately high bonnet line, short overhangs, 3D rear lights and wheelarches fitted with extensions for a crossover-style look. Even more noteworthy are the 'Airbump' side panels - black plastic strips with air-filled bumps that look individual and create a scratch-proof surface to guard the bodywork from minor scratches and dents.

Inside, Citroën says that it's drawn inspiration from travel and home interior design to create an interior that aims to feel like an extension of the driver's home. The perception of space is heightened by the horizontal dashboard, which runs across the whole width of the vehicle. The design of the interior trim and the shape of the chrome-finished air vents also combine to enhance the perception of width. Customers get a choice of cabin finishes and you can also have a panoramic sunroof that fills the cabin with natural light.

Market and Model

Expect pricing to be typical for the supermini segment, which means that most variants will be sold in the £13,000 to £18,000 bracket. Potential buyers will need to make sure that they leave some budget aside for personalisation. There's a choice of four cabin finishes - Citroën calls them 'moods' - plus there are some really clever optional touches. Of

these, our favourite is the 'ConnectedCAM Citroën' system. Here, you get a forward-facing two-megapixel, GPS-enabled camera mounted in the rear-view mirror. It's there for two reasons; sensibility and fun. The 'sense' bit lies in its capability to record any traffic incidents or accidents, since it activates in an impact and stores the preceding 30 seconds and following 60 seconds. However, there's a fun purpose too, given that the driver can also click a button to safely take exterior photos or videos of the view through the windscreen and then share this content through social networks.

We also like the Citroën Connect Nav system that comes with a 7-inch touchscreen and ties into connected services like TomTom traffic. This display also incorporates Mirror Screen technology which enables owners to use Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems to link in their smartphones and use selected apps on the move.

Cost of Ownership

Almost every fashionable type of technology has been thrown at this car to drive its running costs down and, as you'd expect, the best returns can be achieved from the BlueHDi diesel models. Go for the entry-level BlueHDi 75 variant and you can expect over 80mpg on the combined cycle and around 90g/km of CO₂. If you're able to stretch to the top BlueHDi 100 model, then the figures are even better - nearly 85mpg being possible if you're careful.

Don't automatically sign on the

dotted line for a diesel though, particularly if, like many supermini owners, you don't cover a huge number of annual miles. In the PureTech petrol range, the entry-level 68bhp 1.0-litre unit delivers around 65mpg on the combined cycle and under 100g/km of CO₂, while even the far pokier 1.2-litre VTi 82bhp unit manages over 60mpg in regular use.

Summary

This third generation C3 supermini is a far more buyable prospect. In time honoured Citroën fashion, a C3 is just that little bit different, with smart, slightly quirky looks and some fun aesthetic options if you want them.

Overall then, the C3 is at last a strong contender in the supermini marketplace. Best of all perhaps, it's a car that's distinctively Citroën.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Citroën C3
PRICES: £11,135-£17,625 - on the road
INSURANCE GROUPS: 8-20
CO₂ EMISSIONS: 87-109g/km
PERFORMANCE: [BlueHDi 75]
Maximum speed 106mph / 0-62mph 11.3s
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [BlueHDi 75] (combined) 80.7 mpg
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: Twin front, side & curtain airbags, ABS with EBD, ESP
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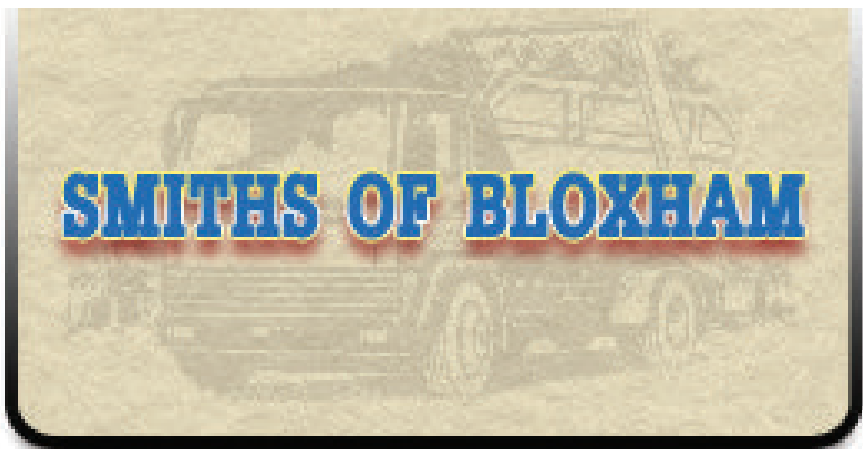
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